This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (original): A method for preserving layer 2 address information or information
2 replacing a layer 2 address of a client device which sourced a virtual private network
3 packet, the method comprising:
4   a) determining a new layer 3 destination address based on at least a
5   portion of a layer 3 destination address of the virtual private network
6   packet; and
7   b) encapsulating the virtual private network packet with a layer 3 source
8   address, the new layer 3 destination address determined, a layer 2 source
9   address and a layer 2 destination address.

1 Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the layer 3 source address
2 corresponds to the layer 3 address of an ingress access router.

1 Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the new layer 3 destination address
2 determined corresponds to the layer 3 address of an egress access router.

1 Claim 4 (original): A method for forwarding a virtual private network packet in which
2 layer 2 address information or information replacing a layer 2 address of a device has
3 been preserved, in which layer 3 destination address information has been preserved and
4 which includes a second layer 3 destination address which corresponds to an egress
5 access router, the method comprising:
6   a) de-encapsulating the virtual private network packet by removing the
7   second layer 3 destination address;
8   b) determining a new destination layer 2 address based on (i) at least a
9   portion of the preserved layer 3 destination address information, and (ii) at
10   least a portion of the layer 2 address information or the information
11   replacing the layer 2 address of the device; and

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12   c) replacing a destination layer 2 address with the new destination layer 2

13   address determined.

Claims 5-15 (canceled)

1   Claim 16 (original): An apparatus for routing virtual private network packets, each of the

2   packets including layer 2 address information or information replacing a layer 2 address

3   of a client device which sourced a virtual private network packet, the apparatus

4   comprising:

5   a) a table including a layer 3 destination address of the virtual private network

6   packet and an associated layer 3 address of an egress access router;

7   b) means for determining a new layer 3 destination address based on the contents

8   of the table; and

9   c) means for encapsulating the virtual private network packet with the new layer

10   3 destination address determined.

Claims 17 and 18 (canceled)

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